

DEATH RACE!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

GUY GARDNER



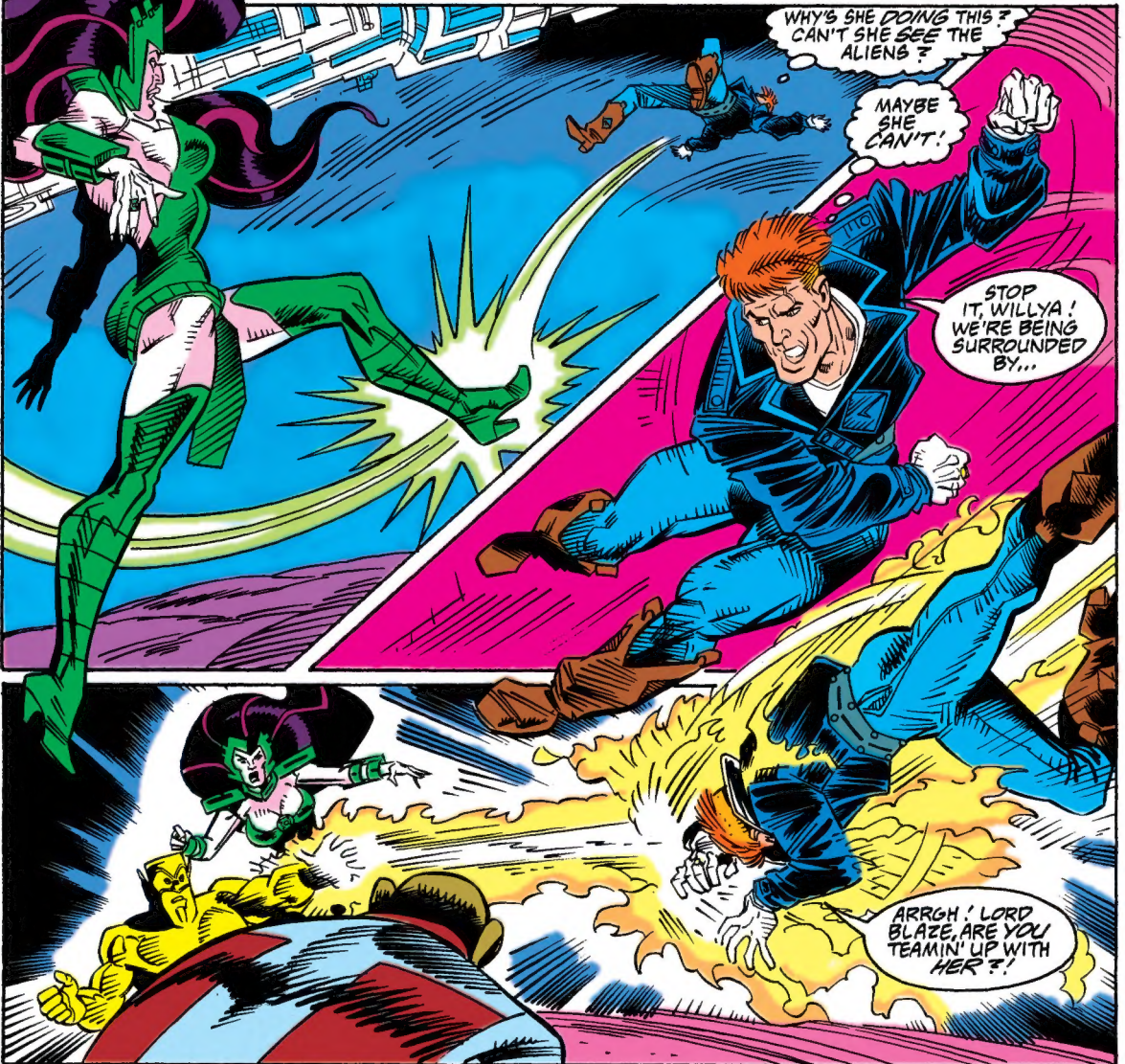
**WILL
JACOBS**
**JOE
STATON**
**TERRY
BEATTY**

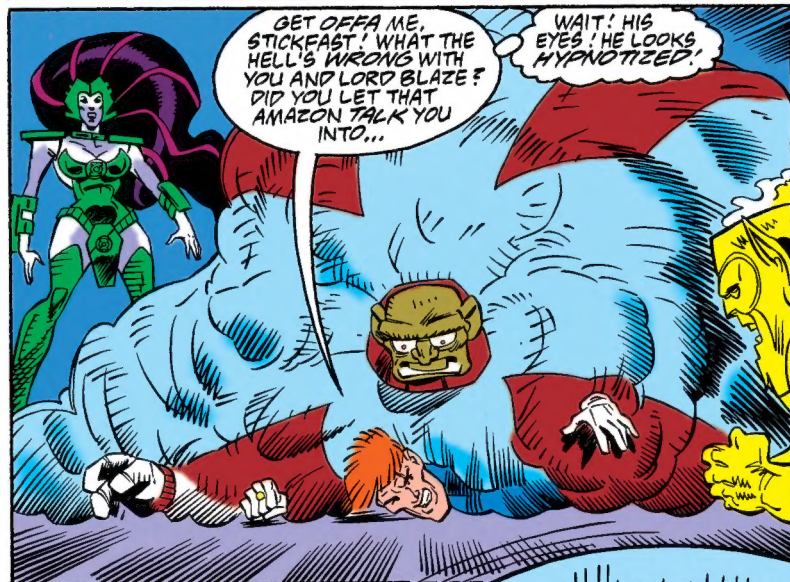
MANIFEST DESTINY

HEY, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?



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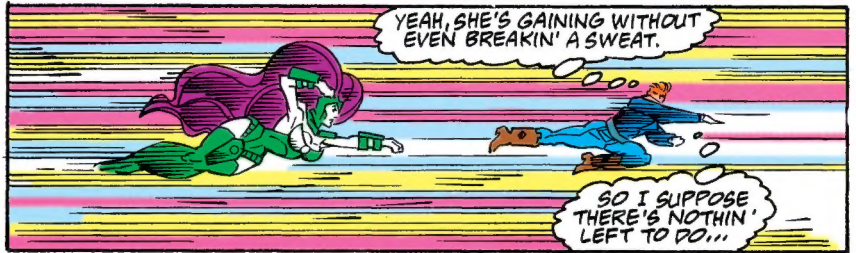




...SO AS ALWAYS, I CAN'T RELY ON ANYBODY BUT ME!

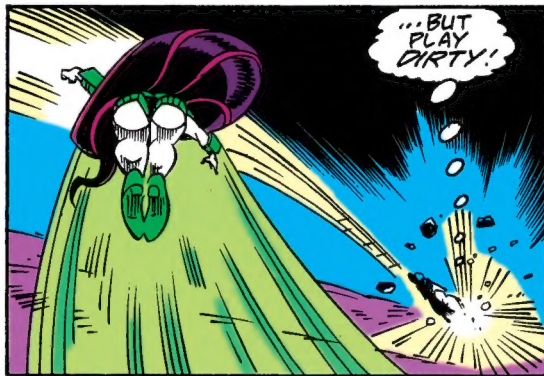


HM. THAT WAS EASY, BUT BOODIKKA /SN'T. SHE'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE EVERY BIT AS FAST AS I CAN!

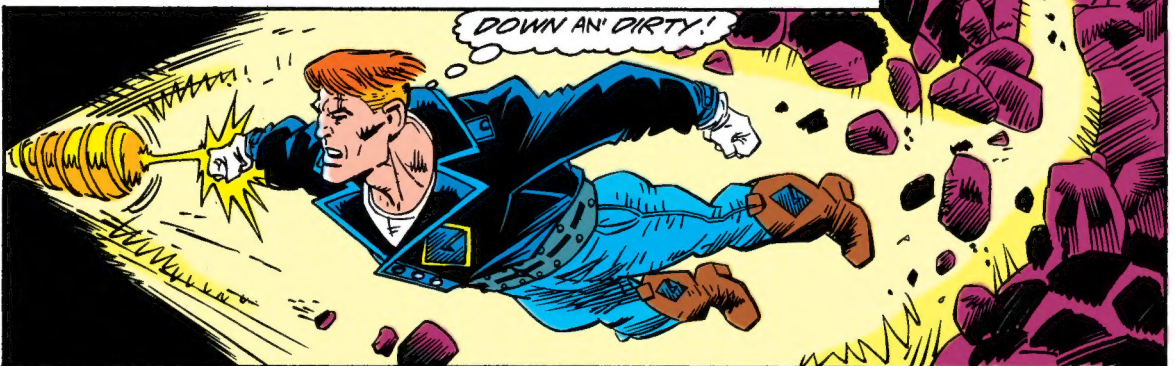


YEAH, SHE'S GAINING WITHOUT EVEN BREAKIN' A SWEAT.

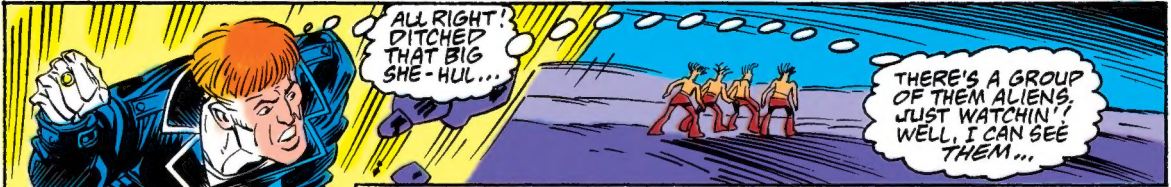
SO I SUPPOSE THERE'S NOTHIN' LEFT TO DO...



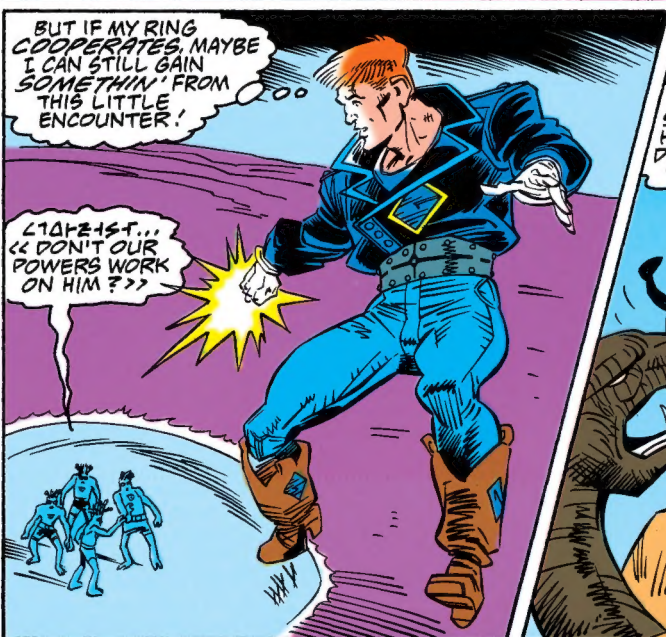
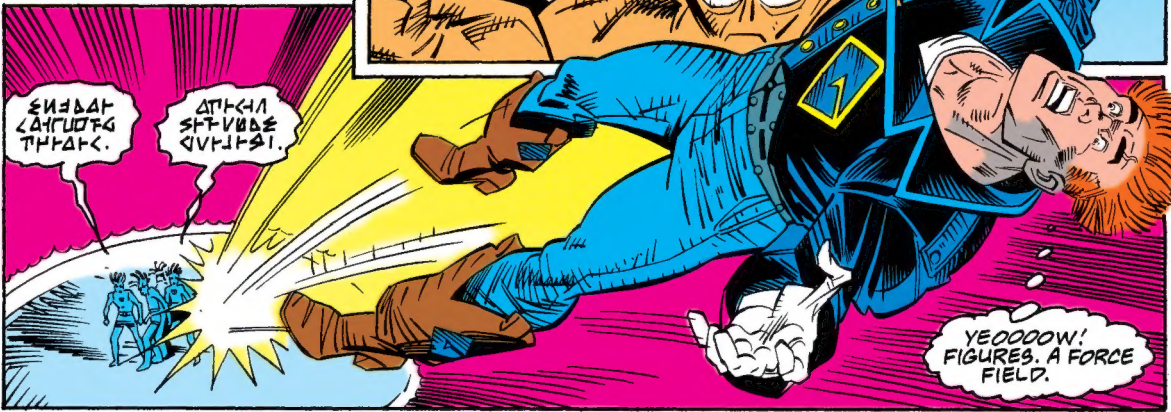
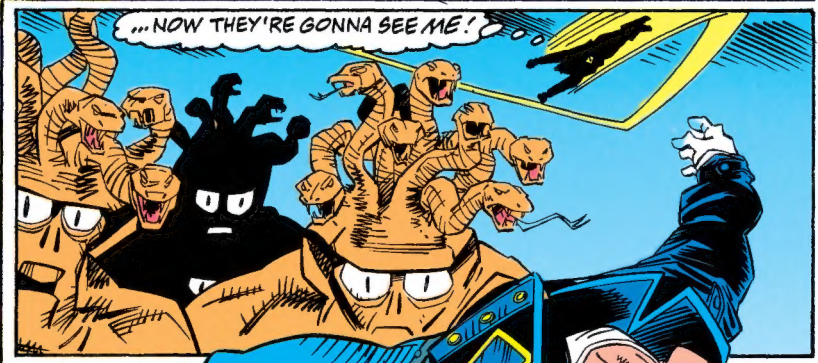
...BUT PLAY DIRTY!

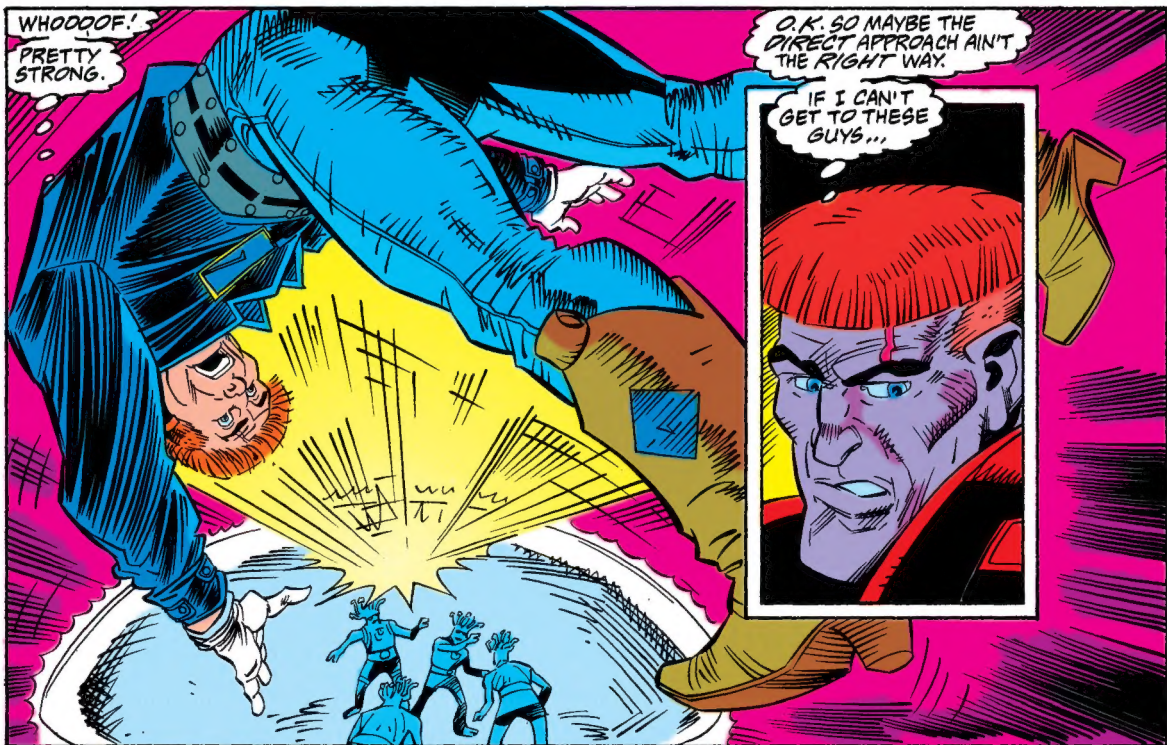


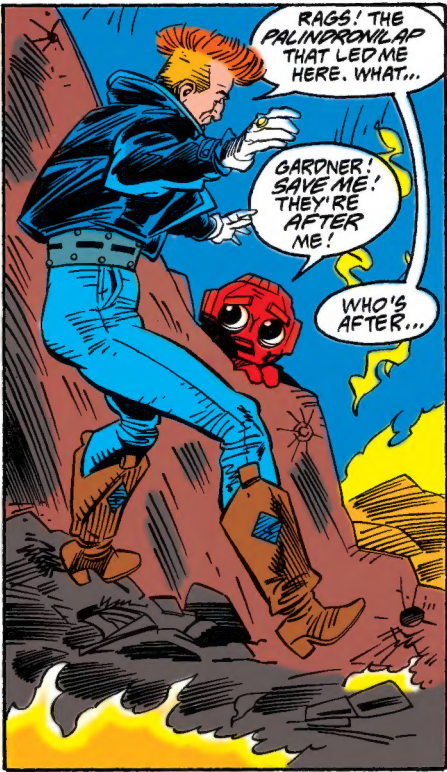
DOWN AN' DIRTY!



THERE'S A GROUP OF THEM ALIENS, JUST WATCHIN'! WELL, I CAN SEE THEM...



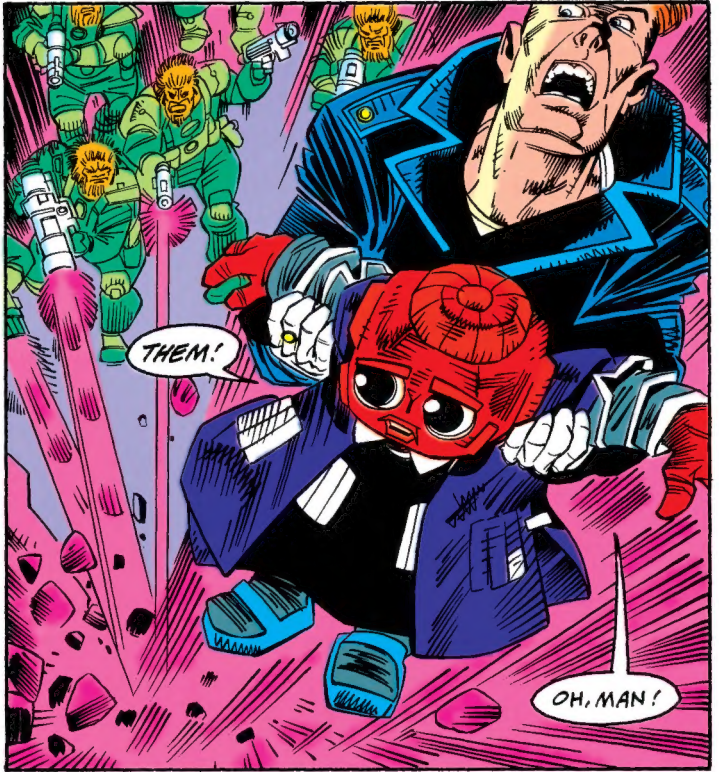




RAGS! THE PALINDROME LAP THAT LED ME HERE. WHAT...

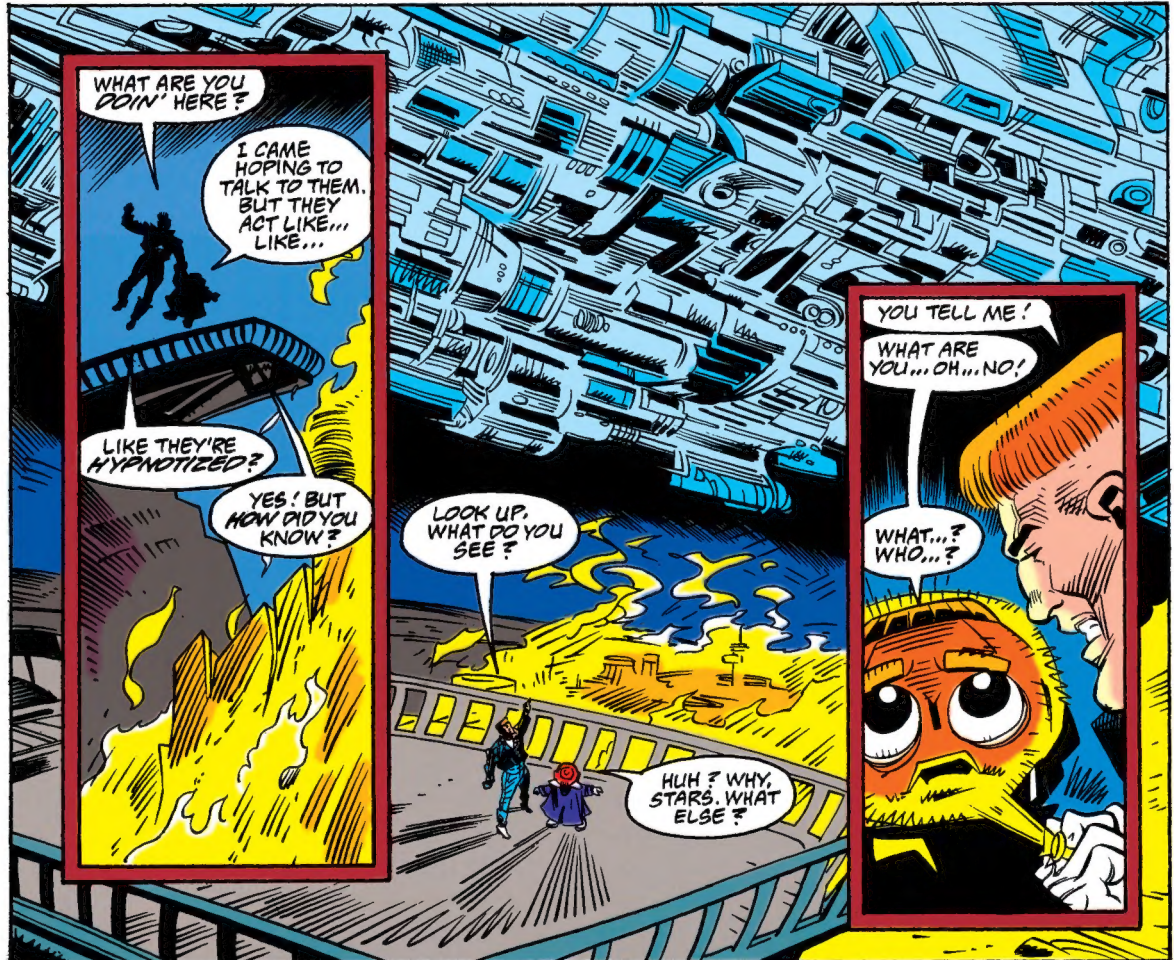
GARDNER! SAVE ME! THEY'RE AFTER ME!

WHO'S AFTER...



THEM!

OH, MAN!



WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE?

I CAME HOPING TO TALK TO THEM. BUT THEY ACT LIKE... LIKE...

LIKE THEY'RE HYPNOTIZED?

YES! BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?

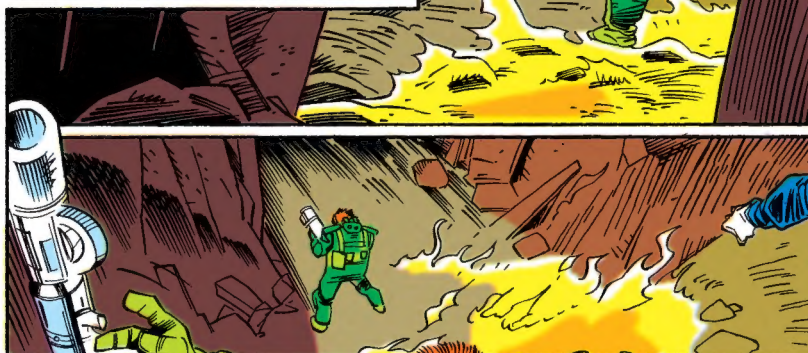
LOOK UP, WHAT DO YOU SEE?

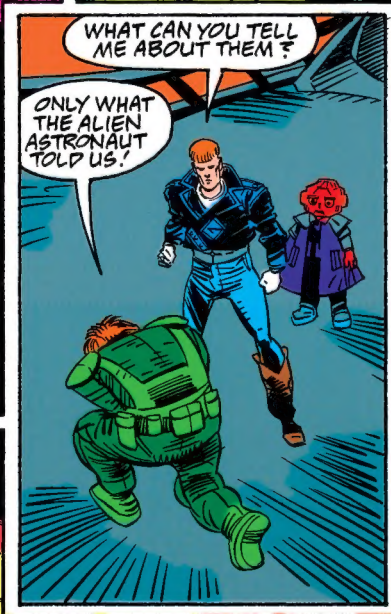
HUH? WHY, STARS. WHAT ELSE?

YOU TELL ME!

WHAT ARE YOU... OH... NO!

WHAT...? WHO...?





"HE WAS RETURNING FROM A MISSION
IN SPACE AND SAW HIS OWN PLANET
DIE."

"IT WAS THE
OPHIDIANS!"

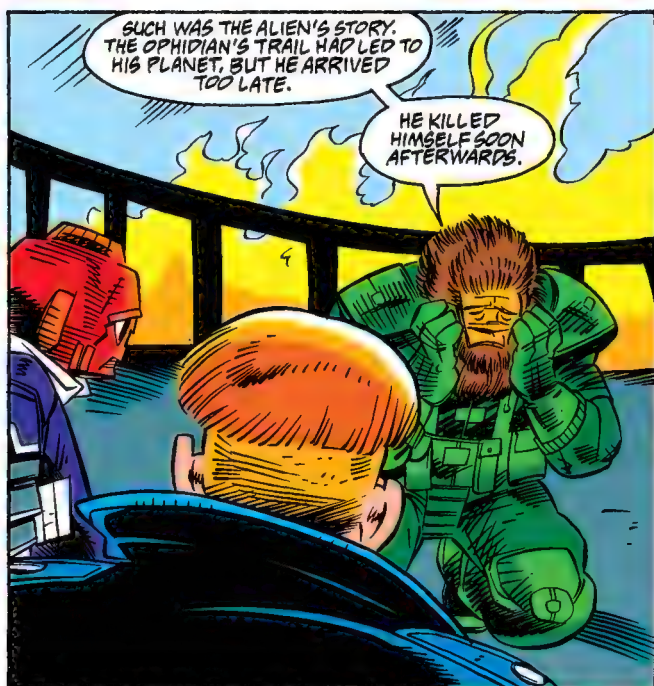
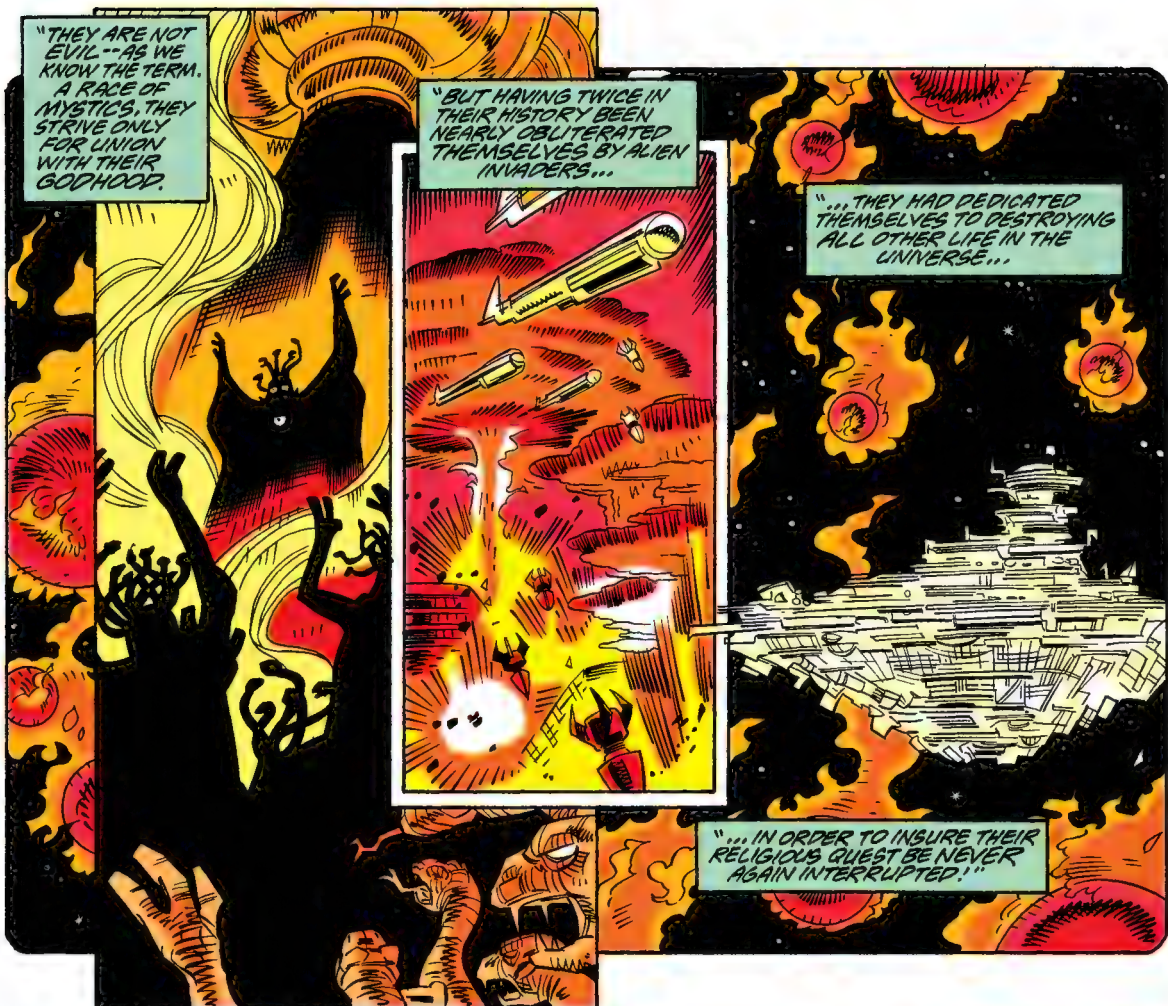
"ON HIS INTERSTELLAR TRAVELS
HE HEARD MANY TALES OF THESE
OPHIDIANS..."

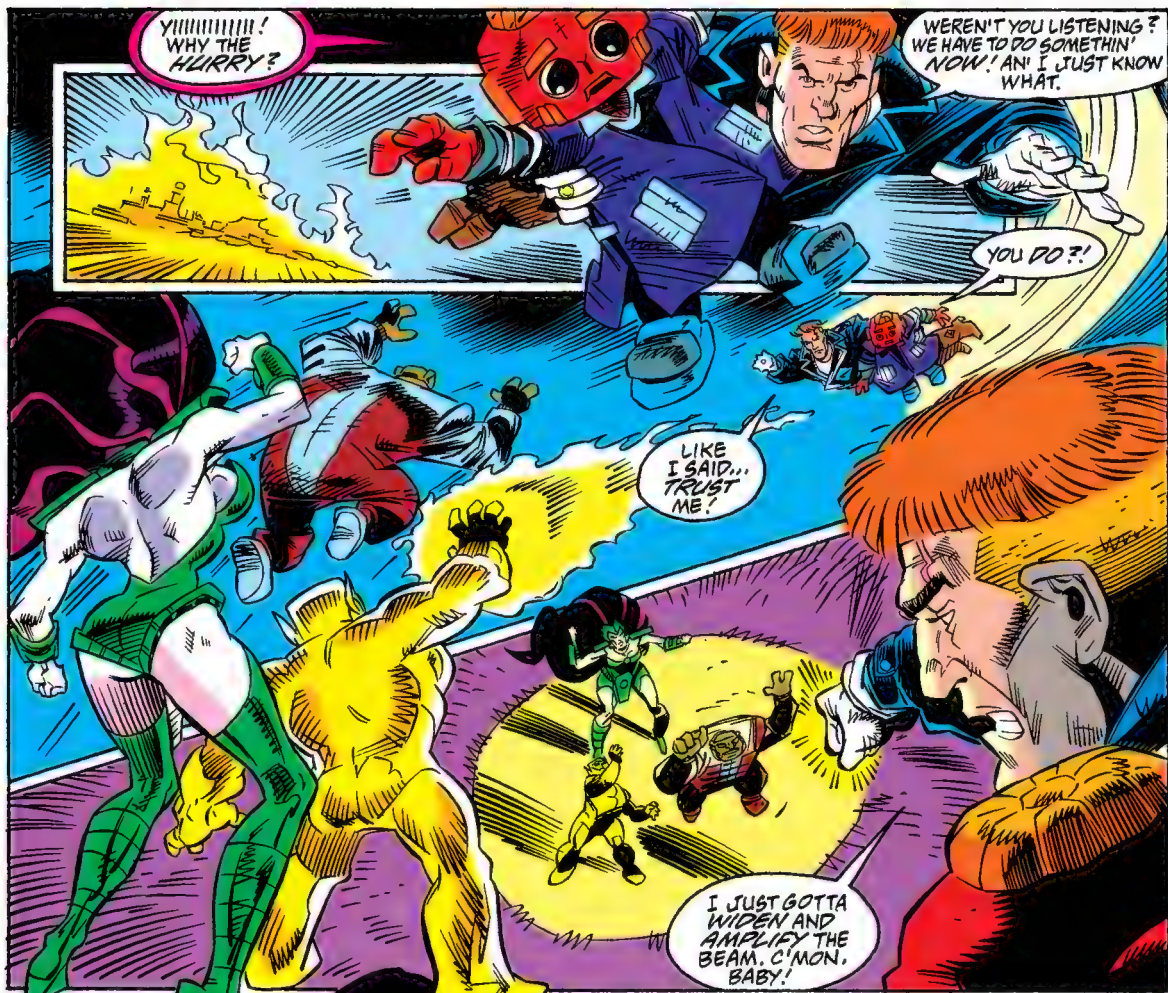


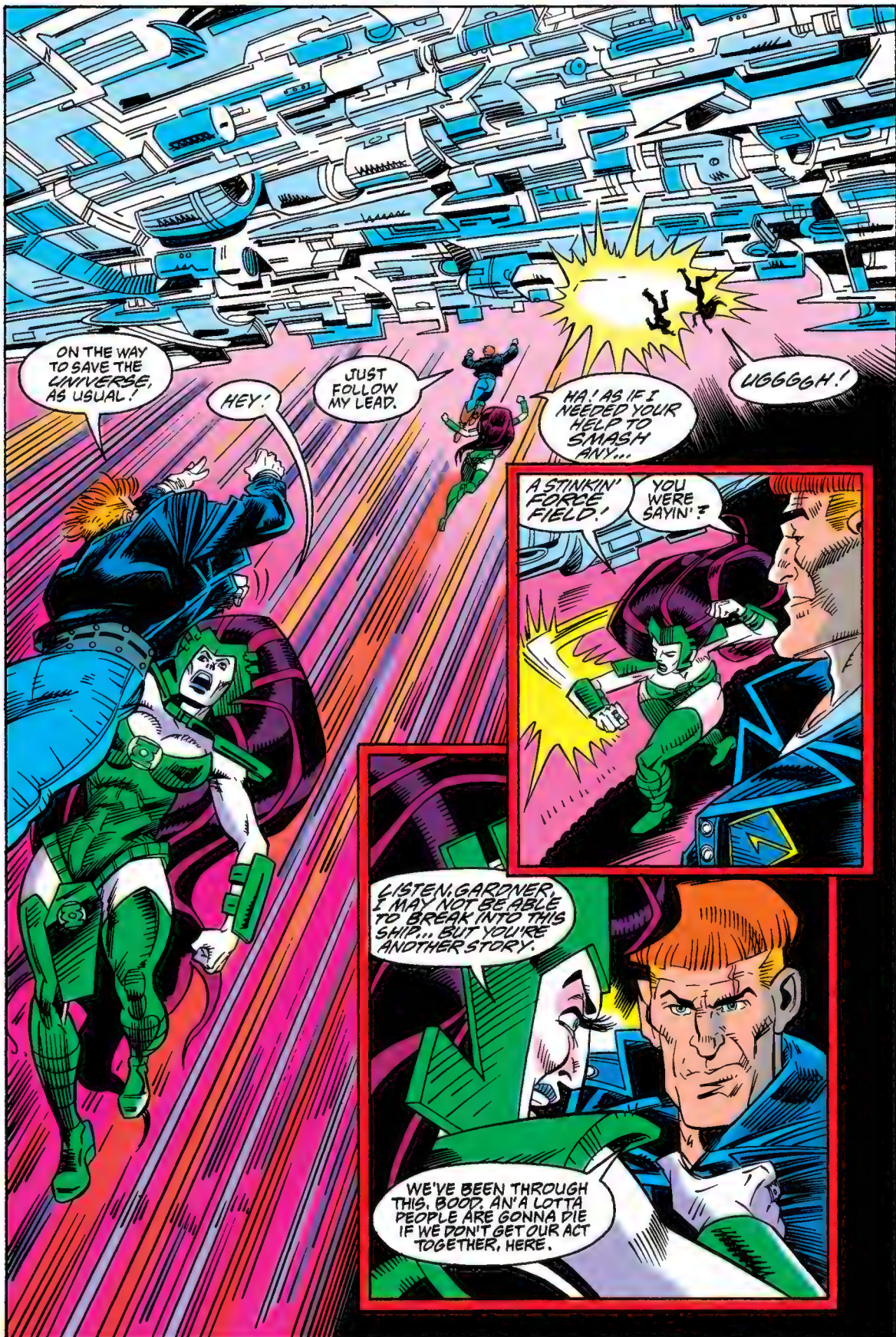
"...THEY POSSESS NO WEAPONS
OF THEIR OWN, BUT MESMERIZE
THEIR PREY INTO KILLING
THEMSELVES."

"THEY TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE CARNAGE THEY WREAK!
FOR AFTER ALL..."

"...THEY ARE
NOT DESTROYING
THEIR VICTIMS, BUT
ONLY EVOKING
THE LATENT
FEROCITY IN
THEIR NATURES!"







ON THE WAY
TO SAVE THE
UNIVERSE,
AS USUAL.

HEY!

JUST
FOLLOW
MY LEAD.

HA! AS IF I
NEEDED YOUR
HELP TO SMASH
ANY...

UGGGGGH!

A STINKIN'
FORCE
FIELD!

YOU
WERE
SAYIN'?

LISTEN, GARDNER,
I MAY NOT BE ABLE
TO BREAK INTO THIS
SHIP... BUT YOU'RE
ANOTHER STORY.

WE'VE BEEN THROUGH
THIS, BOOP. AN'A LOTTA
PEOPLE ARE GONNA DIE
IF WE DON'T GET OUR ACT
TOGETHER, HERE.



GARDNER, I DON'T LIKE YOU. I DON'T TRUST YOU. AND WORSE, YOU'RE A MAN.

LOOK, IF YOU'RE STILL SORE ABOUT WHAT I DID TO YOU, * TOO BAD. WE GOTTA COMBINE FORCES HERE TO TAKE OUT THE REAL BAD GUYS.

*LAST 15H--KD



DAMN!

WHAT?

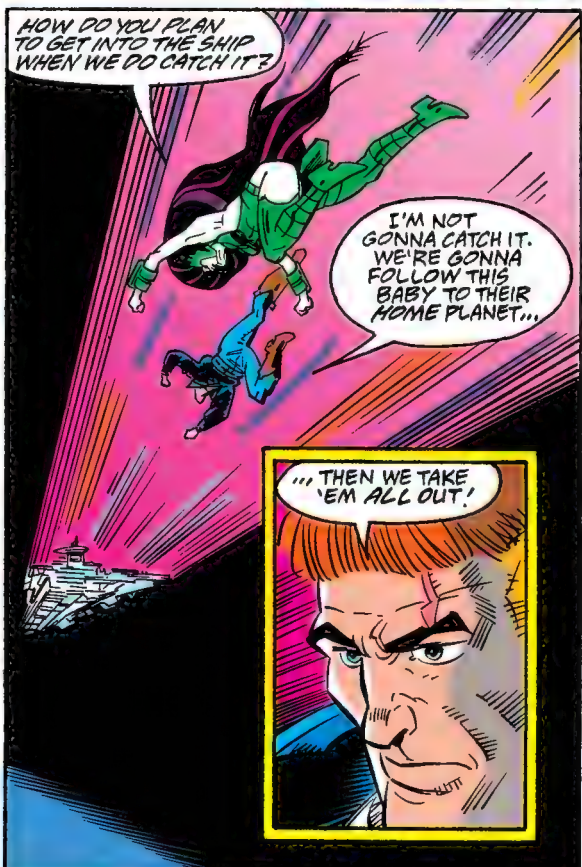
... WHILE WE WERE JAWIN', THE CREEPS'RE HIGHTAILIN' IT!

YOU WITH ME OR WHAT?



YEAH, I'M WITH YOU. I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT I'M GONNA KEEP A REAL CLOSE WATCH ON YOU, GARDNER.

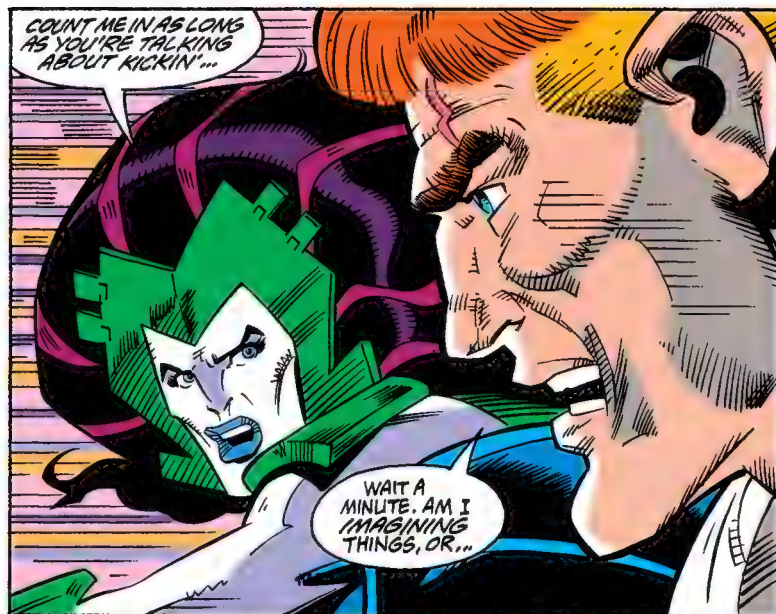
IF YA WANNA CHECK OUT MY BUNG, HAVE A BALL. I HAVE A SHIP TO CATCH.



HOW DO YOU PLAN TO GET INTO THE SHIP WHEN WE DO CATCH IT?

I'M NOT GONNA CATCH IT. WE'RE GONNA FOLLOW THIS BABY TO THEIR HOME PLANET...

... THEN WE TAKE 'EM ALL OUT!



COUNT ME IN AS LONG AS YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT KICKIN'...

WAIT A MINUTE. AM I IMAGINING THINGS, OR...

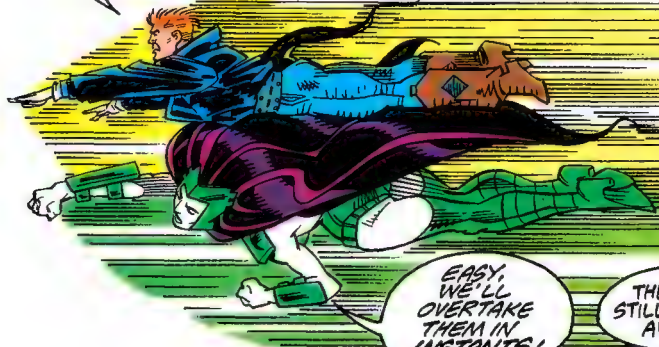
MINE TOO, SWEETHEART...

...SO LET'S DO SOME SERIOUS WILLIN'!



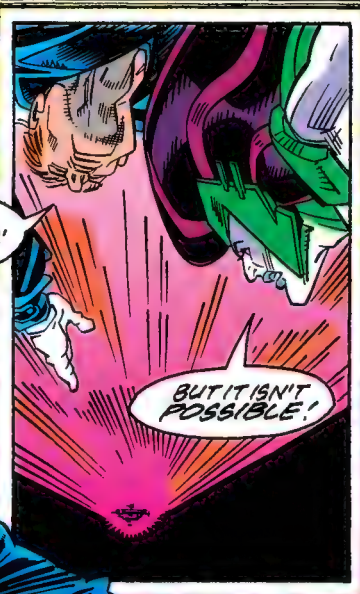
...IS THAT SHIP LEAVIN' US BEHIND?

IMPOSSIBLE! MY RING ENABLES ME TO FLY AS FAST AS I WILL IT TO!

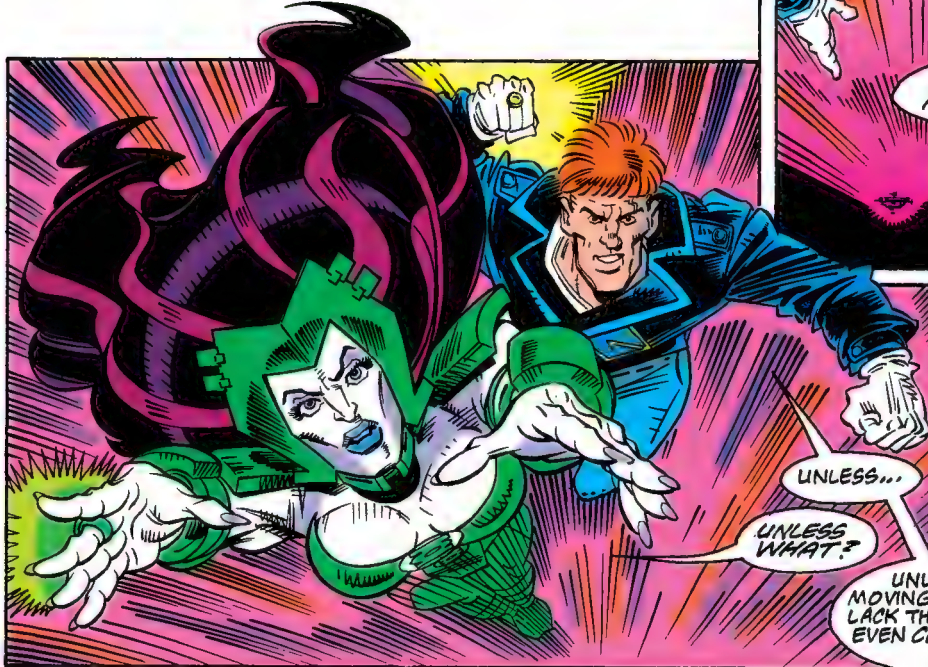


EASY, WE'LL OVERTAKE THEM IN INSTANTS!

THEY'RE STILL PULLIN' AWAY.



BUT IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!



UNLESS...

UNLESS WHAT?

UNLESS THEY'RE MOVING SO FAST THAT WE LACK THE IMAGINATION TO EVEN CONCEIVE OF SUCH SPEED...

SO, IF WE CAN'T
IMAGINE THEIR SPEED,
THEN WE CAN'T WILL
OUR RINGS TO
DUPLICATE IT!

CHECK. THOUGH I
MAY HAVE A SOLUTION.
BUT FRANKLY, IT
GROSSES ME OUT!

SPIT
IT
OUT!

OKAY, OKAY.
I FIGURE IF WE
USE OUR RINGS
TO MELD OUR
MINDS...

WHAT? THAT'S
GROTESQUE!

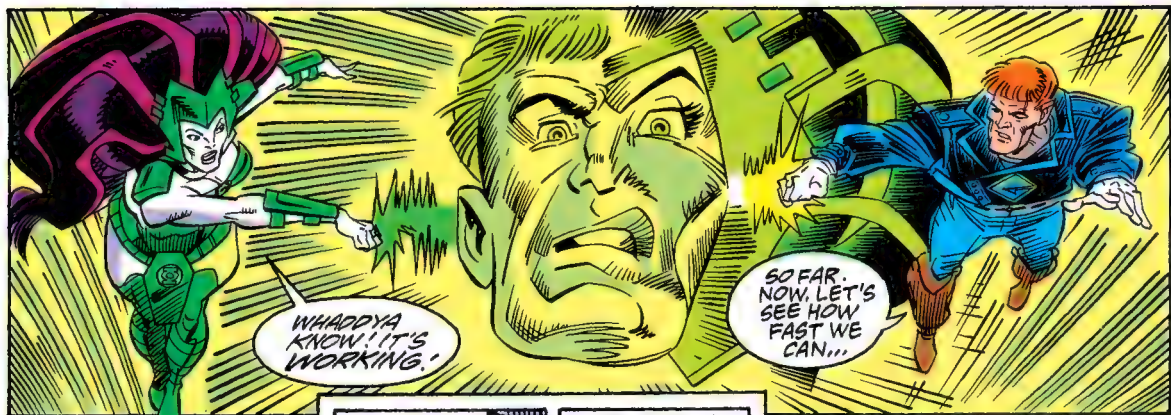
BESIDES, MY RING
DOESN'T WORK ON
ANYTHING YELLOW!

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO WORK ON
IT, JUST ALONGSIDE IT
MAYBE TOGETHER WE CAN
CRANK UP OUR VELOCITY!

IT'S REPULSIVE!
IT'S DISGUSTING!
IT'S...

READY?

WHENEVER
YOU ARE!



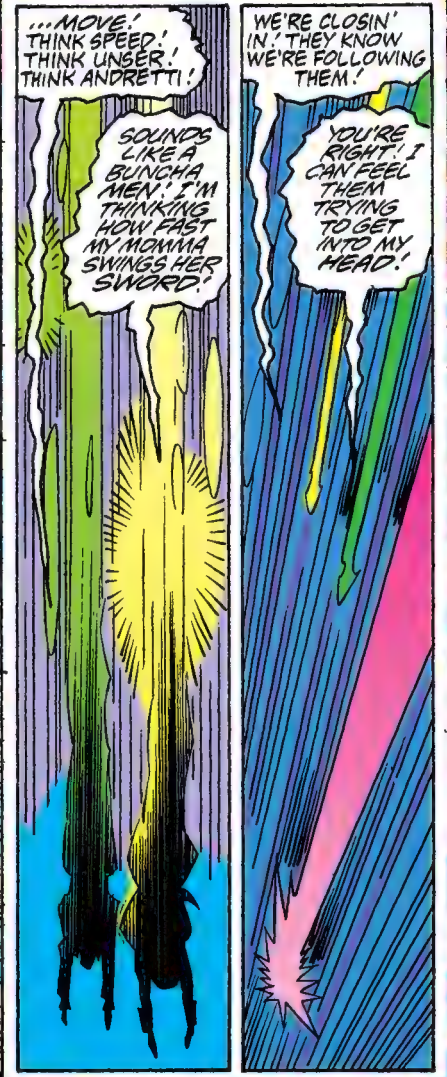
WHADDYA
KNOW! IT'S
WORKING!

SO FAR.
NOW, LET'S
SEE HOW
FAST WE
CAN...



...MOVE!
THINK SPEED!
THINK UNSER!
THINK ANDRETTI!

SOUNDS
LIKE A
BUNCHA
MEN! I'M
THINKING
HOW FAST
MY MOMMA
SWINGS HER
SWORD!



WE'RE CLOSIN'
IN! THEY KNOW
WE'RE FOLLOWING
THEM!

YOU'RE
RIGHT! I
CAN FEEL
THEM
TRYING
TO GET
INTO MY
HEAD!



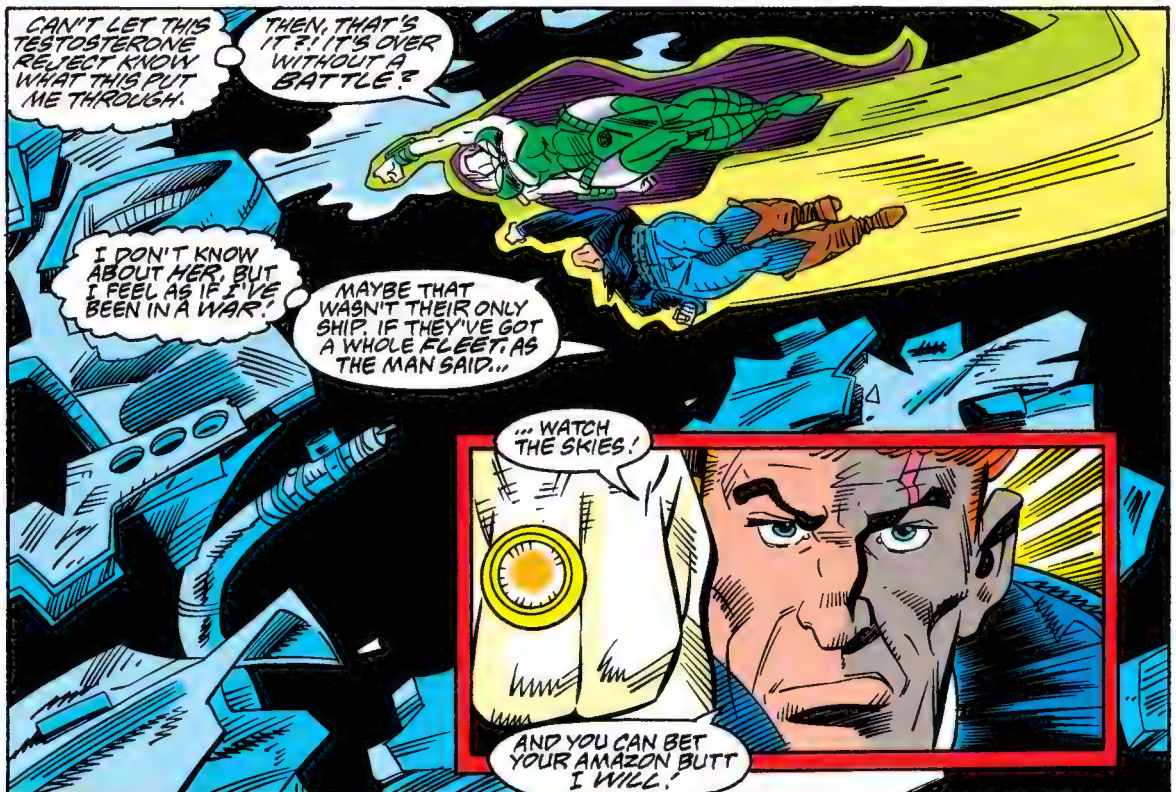
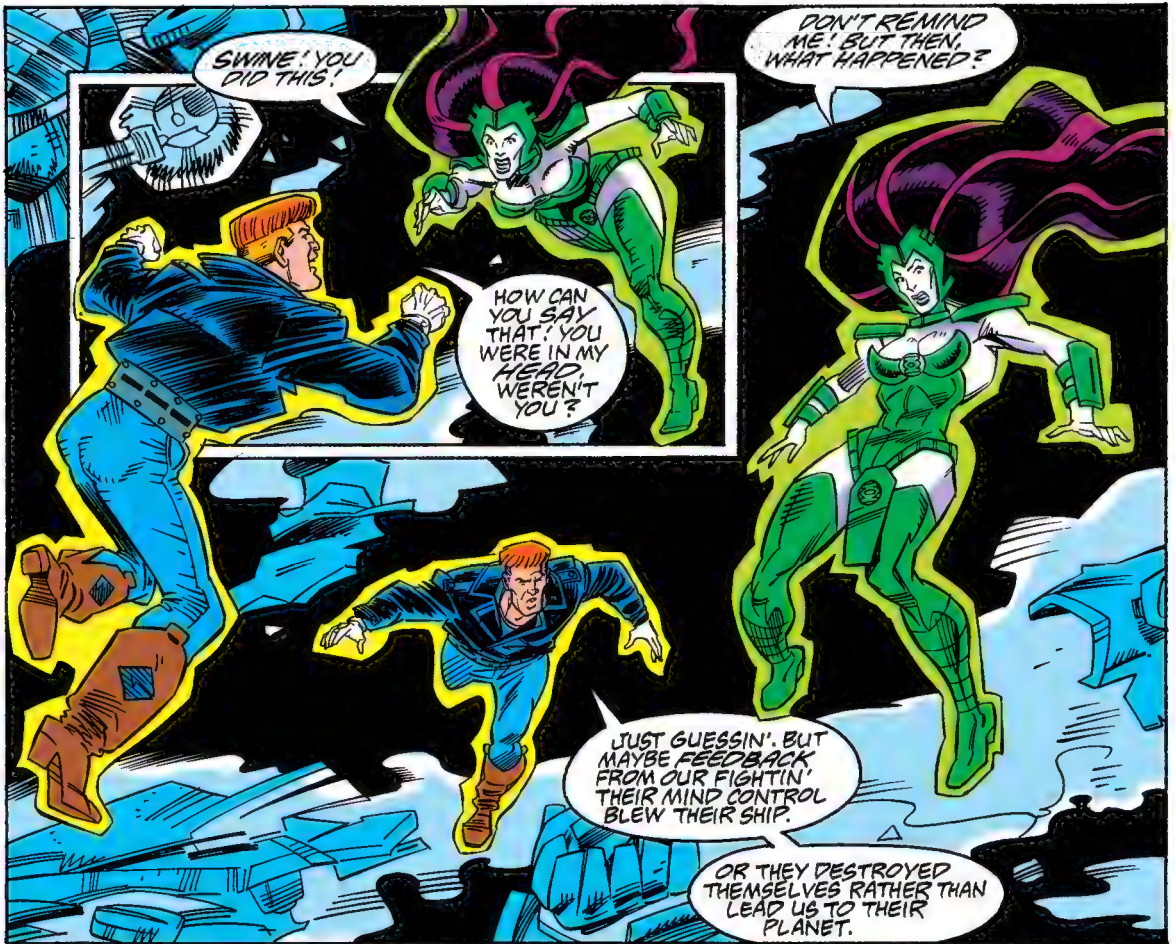
WE GOTTA GET
DEEPER INTO EACH
OTHER'S MINDS! FIGHT
'EM OFF WITH OUR
COMBINED WILLS!

AS DISGUSTING
AS IT SOUNDS,
I'LL DO IT!

THEY'RE
INCREASIN'...
THEIR POWER...
THEIR SPEED!

DON'T STOP!
KEEP... GO...

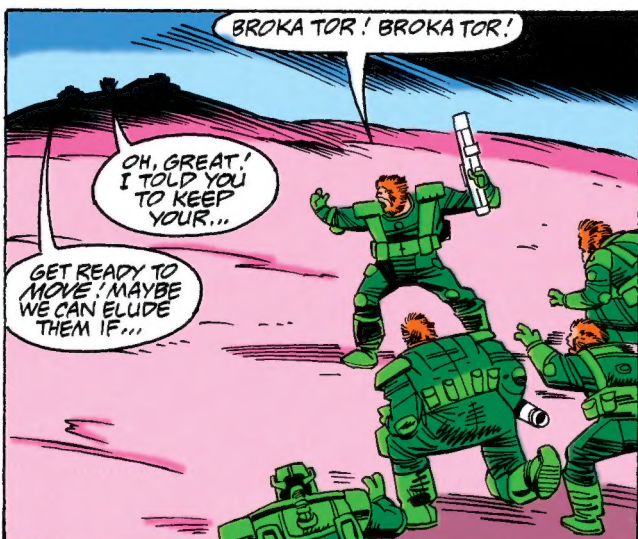






THINK THEY SPOTTED US?

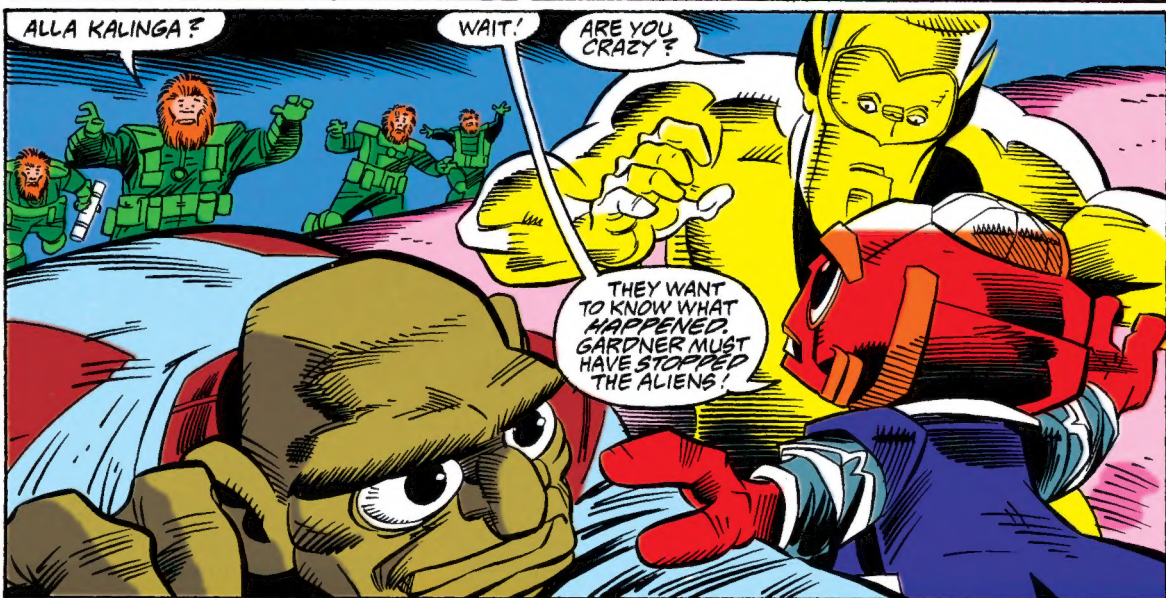
THEY WILL IF YOU DON'T YANK YOUR FOOL HEAD DOWN!



BROKA TOR! BROKA TOR!

OH, GREAT! I TOLD YOU TO KEEP YOUR...

GET READY TO MOVE! MAYBE WE CAN ELUDE THEM IF...

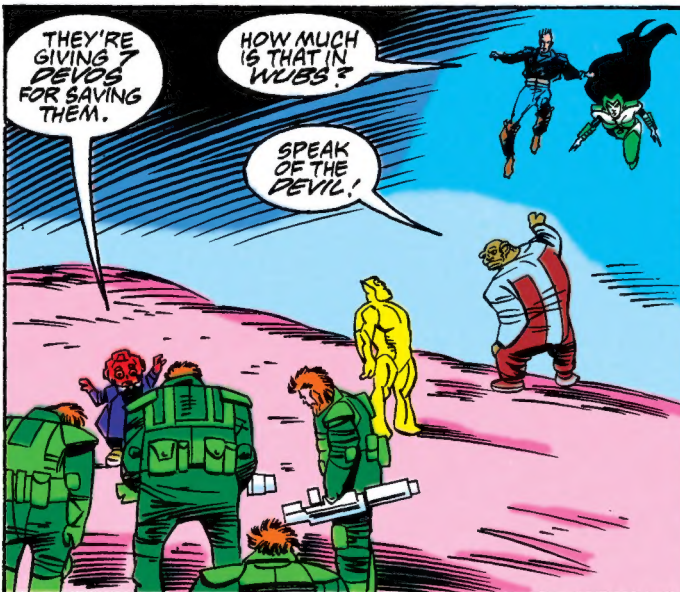


ALLA KALINGA?

WAIT!

ARE YOU CRAZY?

THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. GARDNER MUST HAVE STOPPED THE ALIENS!



THEY'RE GIVING 7 DEVOS FOR SAVING THEM.

HOW MUCH IS THAT IN WUBBS?

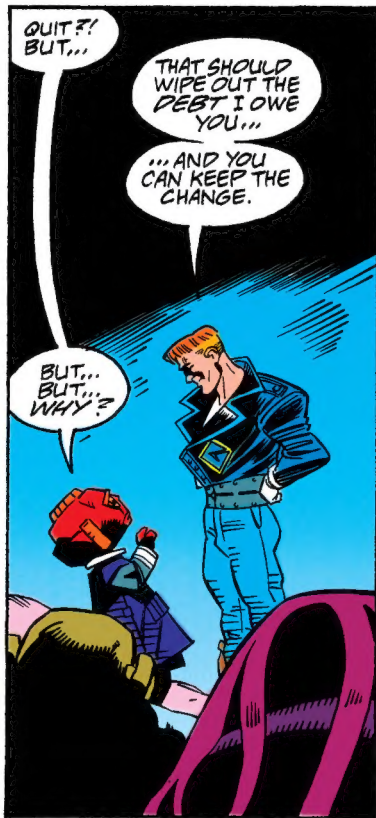
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!



WELL, HOW MUCH IS IT?

7 DEVOS IS ABOUT 56 MILLION WUBBS.

GOOD. THEN, I QUIT!

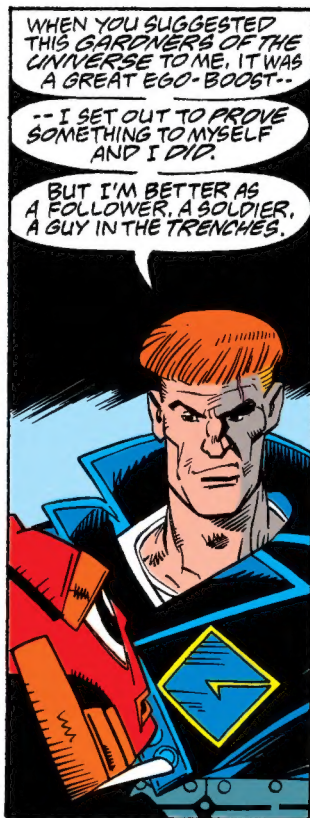


QUIT? BUT...

THAT SHOULD WIPE OUT THE DEBT I OWE YOU...

...AND YOU CAN KEEP THE CHANGE.

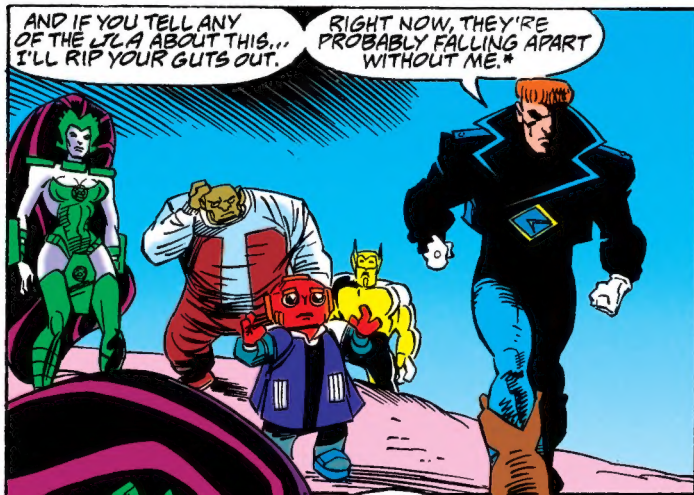
BUT... BUT... WHY?



WHEN YOU SUGGESTED THIS GARDNERS OF THE UNIVERSE TO ME, IT WAS A GREAT EGO-BOOST--

-- I SET OUT TO PROVE SOMETHING TO MYSELF AND I DID.

BUT I'M BETTER AS A FOLLOWER, A SOLDIER, A GUY IN THE TRENCHES.



AND IF YOU TELL ANY OF THE JLA ABOUT THIS... I'LL RIP YOUR GUTS OUT.

RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE PROBABLY FALLING APART WITHOUT ME.*



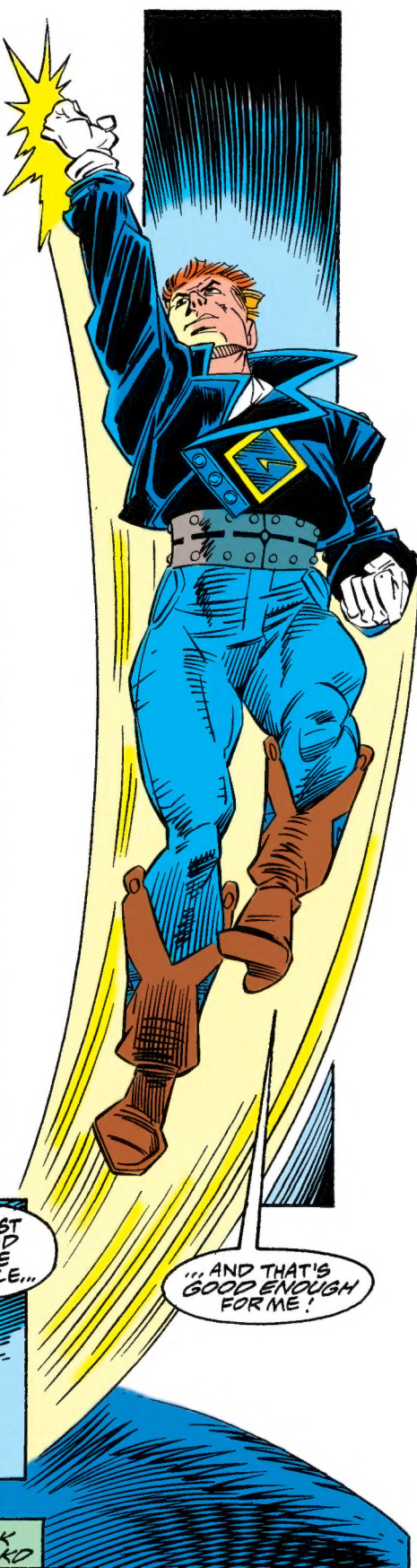
WAIT A MINUTE, SHRIMP! YOU AND I STILL HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE!

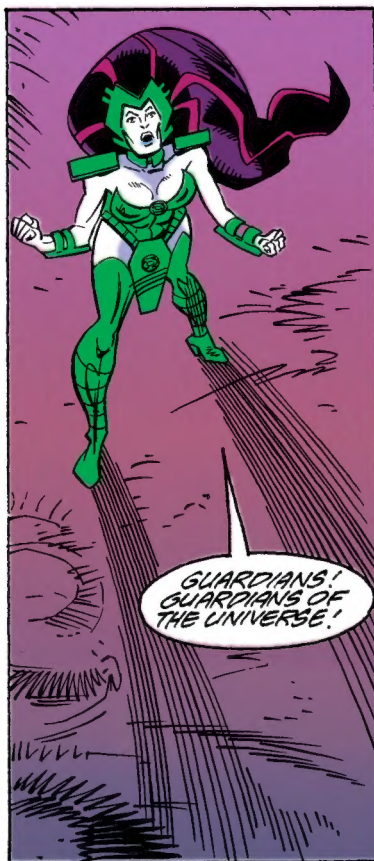
I JUST SAVED THESE PEOPLE...

DIDN'T YOU JUST HEAR WHAT I SAID, BOOD?

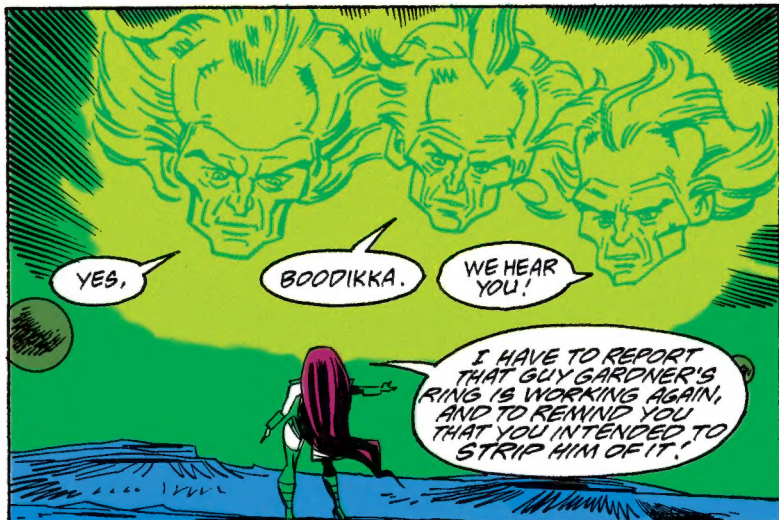
... AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME!

* GUY MAY BE RIGHT. CHECK OUT JLA #5 76 & 77--KD





GUARDIANS!
GUARDIANS OF
THE UNIVERSE!



YES,

BOODIKKA.

WE HEAR
YOU!

I HAVE TO REPORT
THAT GUY GARDNER'S
RING IS WORKING AGAIN,
AND TO REMIND YOU
THAT YOU INTENDED TO
STRIP HIM OF IT!



YES, BOODIKKA.
BUT WE ARE ALREADY
AWARE OF THESE
DEVELOPMENTS.

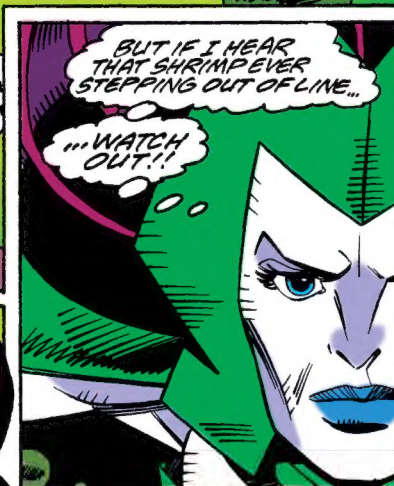
AND WE HAVE REALIZED
THAT GUY IS WORKING TOWARD
THE SAME ENDS WE ARE.

AND SO...



...EVEN THOUGH WE SHALL
KEEP A CRITICAL EYE ON HIM,
WE HAVE ELECTED TO LET HIM
BE FOR THE PRESENT.

AS YOU SAY,
GUARDIANS.

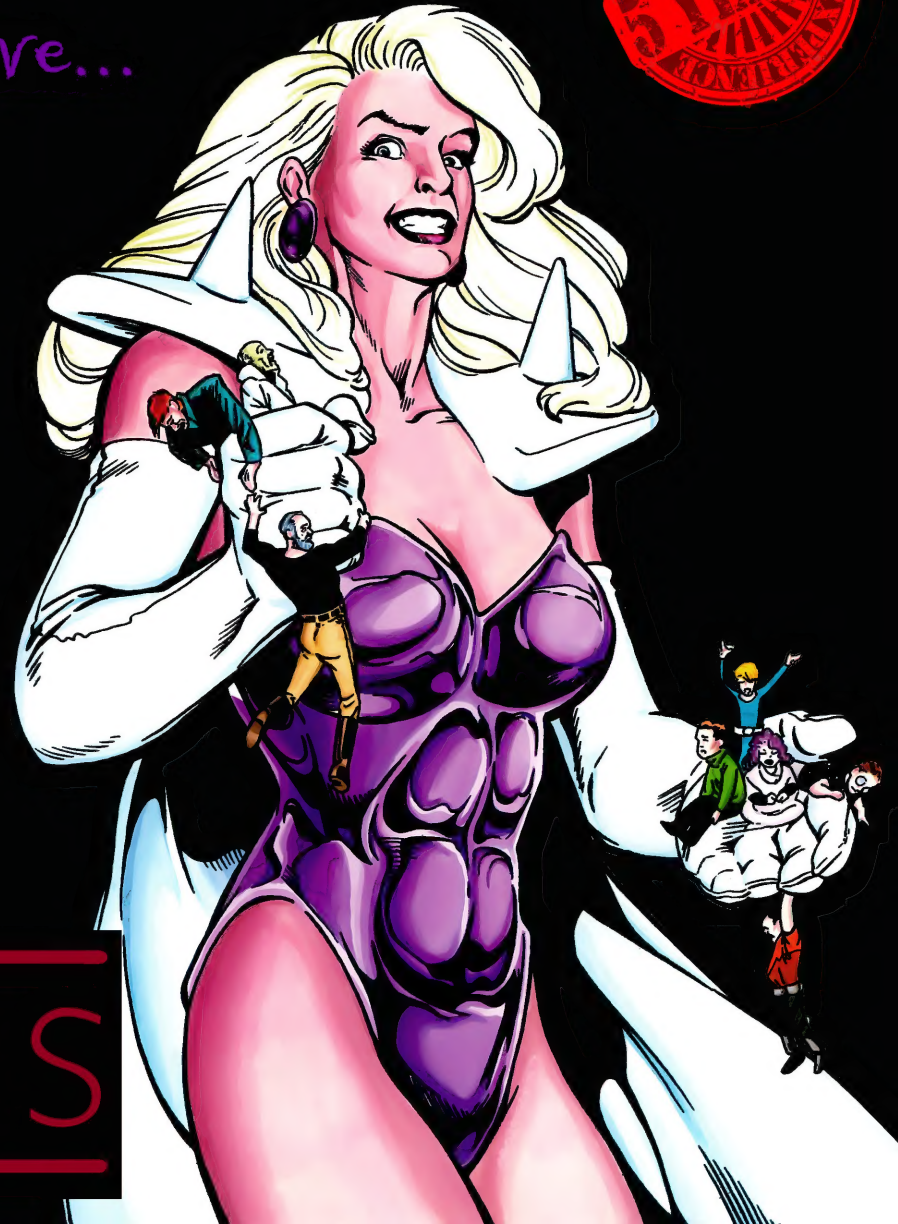


BUT IF I HEAR
THAT SHRIMPEVER
STEPPING OUT OF LINE...

...WATCH
OUT!!

**NEXT: THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY BEGINS WITH**
GUY
YEAR
ONE!

From Baaldur, with love...



GLORITH

NOVUS